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4-H CLUB WORK ENCOURAGES ATTRACTIVENESS IN AND ABOUT THE FARM HOME

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A radio talk by Dohrs Kennerly, Contra Costa County, California, 4-H club girl, delivered in the 4-H club program, National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, March 3, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio station.

Over fourteen years ago my father and mother, who operated a poultry and grain farm, became interested in the work of the Agricultural Extension Service and Farm Bureau. One of the first things I remember was that our chickens got chicken pox and my brother and I took turns staying home from school to help catch and hold the chickens while my dad and the county agent vaccinated them.

Besides the poultry problems we learned there were other things we could do to improve our farm. Some of our neighbors were landscaping their yards with the help of the Extension Service. We wanted this same assistance. The landscape specialist came to our home, and following his suggestions we planted a lawn and a hedge on the north. The hedge is California privet which grows thick and high unless well trimmed. Beyond this hedge we have a perfect view of part of the San Francisco Bay. Close to the house and just under my window we planted a bed of violets. Several varieties of shrubs, as well as dahlias and chrysanthemums were planted on the western side which over looks a flat piece of land with hills in the background and beyond is Mr. Diablo. On the other sides are pepper, locust and fig trees.

After we had made such an improvement in the outside appearance of our home we again called upon the Extension Service and with the help of the Home Demonstration Agent the interior of our house was all done over. All this interested me, even though I was a little girl.

When a 4-H clothing club was organized in our farm community, my sister and I became members. I belonged to the clothing club for five years which helped me to learn to make my own dresses and other garments, as well as to sew for my married sister and her children. I learned to baste and sew straight seams, but just as important was the study of materials and styles suited to a school girl's wardrobe, and because I can do my own sewing, I have more clothes.

After these years of sewing we organized a Home Furnishing Club. I think this is the most fascinating work a girl can do who is interested at all in a home. It is just like joining work and play together. In Home Furnishing Club work in California the bedroom is our problem. We are to make it attractive and keep it clean. The first thing we had to do was to study our rooms and draw a diagram of them, showing where the doors, windows, and furniture were placed. When our club met we studied these diagrams to see if our beds were in the proper position to have the most fresh air, or if our bureaus were placed to receive the best light for dressing.

My room is a screened-in sleeping porch which overlooks the lawn, hedge and the Bay. The room has been made more sheltered with a canvas that we can let down in the winter if it gets too cold. In this way my sister and I enjoy the fresh air the whole year through.

(over)

Each girl selects a color to be used all through her work in Home Furnishing. She also selects a figured material that will harmonize with the plain color. These materials are used to make all of the pretty extra things for our rooms. Since my room is on the north and a semi-sleeping porch, I chose a bright yellow to make it cheery and bright. The walls of the room are painted cream with green trimmings. I made my curtains of bright yellow with the tie-backs of the figures print. I made my portfolio of this print and I keep it on my bureau. It holds all my 4-H leaflets. Since part of our project is keeping our bedrooms clean we made an attractive container for a dust cloth by covering a coffee can with this printed material. This also is on my bureau; it is convenient and adds to my room.

On my bed are my initialed sheets and pillow cases, and my quilted yellow pillow. I also initialed a bath towel and wash cloth. Some of my coat hangers are covered with the print and others are painted. My shoe bag hangs on the closet door. One of my painted coat hangers is used in my laundry bag which hangs in the closet. In my dresser drawer I have a box painted yellow. This box is partitioned off to keep my jewelry, handkerchiefs, pencils and other odds and ends in good order.

All club work in California includes individual improvement. The first year of Home Furnishing our health problem is "Care of Hands and Nails"; the second year, "Care of the Hair."

I plan to continue with the Home Furnishing work until I have completed all the phases, and I know I will always like it.

During those years since I held the chickens, I have come to know that my parents have tried to make our farm home more attractive, both inside and out. My own work in the clothing and home furnishing clubs has taught me to understand and I have learned to do my part in making our home in the country a better place in which to live.

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